come under the first point which were under the last point. About the level of rates and the first point levy being kept small, that also we are taking into consideration. Another recommendation is that a relatively small number of commodities of which the value added is quite substantial at later stages and those which are manufactured by a number of small units should be fixed at the last point. So, Sir, about the trading activities in Delhi as they are placed today, that recommendation also we are taking into consideration. There are about seven recommendations, and we are going into details of all these recommendations. We are trying to make them uptodate, and whichever recommendation is suitable to us, we are also going to implement.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Sir, in the reply it has been given that various steps have been taken to plug the loopholes. I want to ask the hon. Minister which step has proved most effective in this, the most effective step to plug the loopholes.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Sir, the most effective is from the last point of sales tax because that was the point where more evasion was taking place. Therefore, we are now taxing at the first point. That means the manufacturing point. Therefore, the evasion could be checked. We are increasing those items more and more from 17 to 43 items which carry really more sales. Therefore, it is a very major step that we have taken.

The second thing we have done is that those business people who are involved in evasion of sales tax, we are not giving them forms. We have stopped issuing forms so that they cannot take recourse to this kind of evasion.

We are increasing the strength of our Sales Tax Cell also. We are taking vigorous action against erring officers who are involved in evasion. I have read that statement about how many officers have been punished. We have done it.

Therefore, all efforts have been made to see that the sales-tax evasion checked in Delhi.

And the target fixed by the Planning Commission, we go on increasing for resource mobilisation.

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : सभापति जी, मंत्री महोदय तो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट में स्टेट होम मिनिस्टर हैं, इनको जो बता दिया गया दिल्ली सेल्स-टैक्स के बारे में, वह बता रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या आप ऐसा कोई सर्वे कण्डक्ट करवा सकते हैं शॉप-कीपरस या जो सेल्सटैक्स पे करत हैं दिल्ली के अन्दर, उनका कि उन्हें कोई दिक्कत तो नहीं है और क्या यह भी जानने की कोशिश करेंगे कि किसी की असेसमेंट बगैर किसी अण्डरस्टेंडिंग के हो भी जाती है ?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Sir, I have also mentioned that whenever such things are coming to our notice, disciplinary action has been taken.

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : मैंने कहा है, क्या आप स्टडी कण्डक्ट करवाएंगे। आने का सवाल नहीं है। कोई आपके पास कैसे आ जाएगा ?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: These are the facts that are before us. If the hon. Member thinks that by making more survey, going in for detailed surveys, we can do that, we will take the suggestion into consideration. It is a good suggestion.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, I also wanted to put a supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not called you.

Review of policy in respect of new Mini-Steel Plants by IDBI

*283. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public financial institutions have decided to follow a cautious policy in the matter of extending loans to the new mini-steel plants;

(b) if so, whether a review of the mini-steel industry has been made by the Indus-

trial Development Bank of India recently, and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO). (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

Financial insttutions consider on a selective basis applications for mini steel plants depending upon their satisfying techno-economic viability including minimum economic capacity and adoption of modern and appropriate technology. Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that no specific industry study as such on mini steel has been made by it. However, as a part of its operations, developments relating to various industries are generally kept under review by IDBI.

SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister how many mini steel plants have been given licence during the last three years and how many of those could not take off due to poor finance and what the reaction of the Government is to that?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, the position in the last three years was that until December 1987 we, as a rule, were not giving financial assistance to new mini steel plants. The problem was particularly regarding power because it is a highly power-intensive industry, and this problem was taken into account while not giving permission to new mini steel plants. However, as far as financial assistance is concerned, we were giving financial assistance is concerned, we are giving financial assistance for modernisation and updating of technology of the existing mini steel plants. This policy has not been changed, with effect from December, 1987; and now we have removed mini steel plants from the negative list in which they were earlier. Now the financial institutions do give financial assistance to new mini steel plants. However, we keep in mind the need to encourage modernisation; energy conservation and product improvement for enabling entrepreneurs to incorporate some of the new technogical developments in the field, while giving financial assistance for new mini steel plants. We also do keep in mind that a mini-Steel plant is a highly power intensive industry. Therefore; sufficient guarantee of obtaining power is insisted upon by the financial institutions in such applications. Therefore, in the last three years the position has changed from what it was obtaining since December 1987. Earlier, new mini-steel plants were in the negative list for giving financial assistance. Now they are not in the negative list, but this approach as I have outlined; is being pursued while giving financial assistance to them.

SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: I would like to know whether the Government is thinking to keep the mini-steel plants only in the joint sector so that the State Government can see that progress of those mini-steel plants is satisfactory.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: This is a question which the hon. Member may like to address to the Ministry of Steel, because it concerns them. We deal only with the financial assistance.

Export of textiles to non-quota countries

*284. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:†

SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Harvendra Singh Hanspal.